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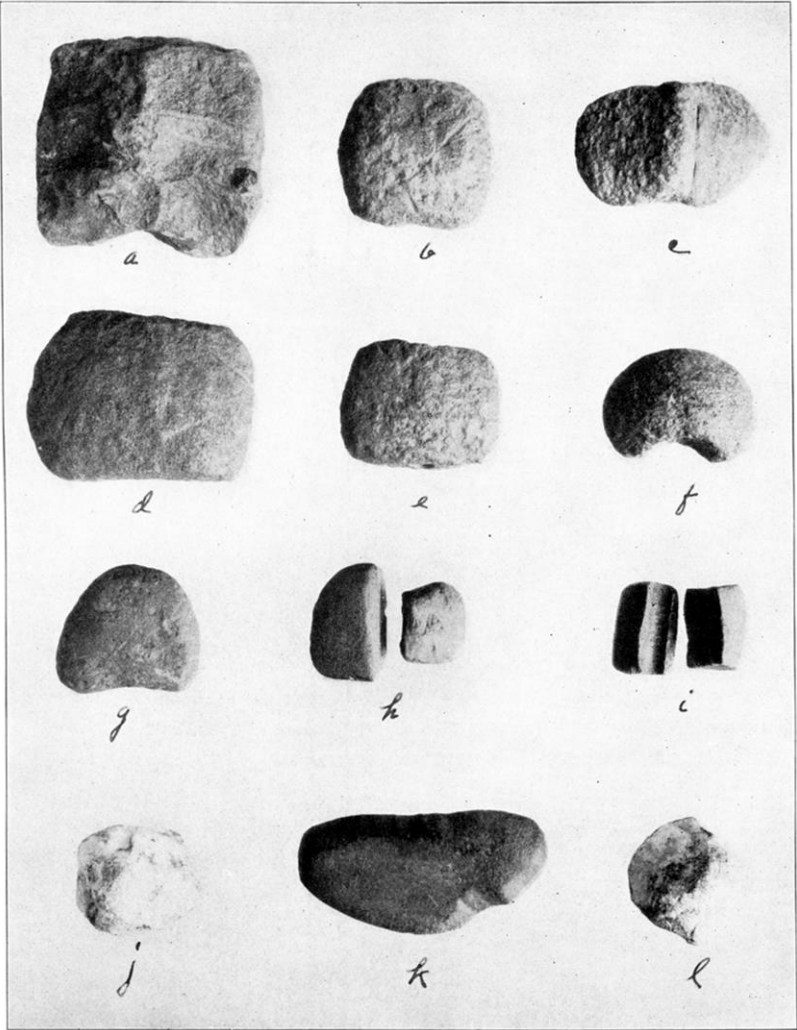
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## A PROCHLORITE BANNERSTONE WORKSHOP

By JOHN LEONARD BAER

ONE and a half miles below the aboriginal workshop on Mt. Johnson Island in the Susquehanna River, described in the October-December, 1921, number of the *American Anthropologist*, is another bannerstone workshop. This one is located on the east bank of the Susquehanna below Peach Bottom, Lancaster County, Pa. It does not compare in size with the one formerly described, where hundreds of slate bannerstones were shaped; neither was the same material used nor did the same shape of bannerstone prevail. While at the island workshop almost all of the unfinished specimens found were of slate and of the winged type with well-defined centrums; those found at the lower workshop were made of prochlorite and usually of a double-convex form truncated at top and bottom or bottom only and without any pronounced centrum.

Prochlorite is a soft green stone containing crystals of magnetite. When found in situ it usually occurs contiguous to steatite and is sometimes wrongly called green soapstone. While this material was chosen for making bannerstones, partly because of the ease and safety with which it was worked, the magnetite crystals it contains were a factor that entered into the choice. The shining black crystals added materially to the beauty of the finished bannerstone. The nearest source of this material is about five miles down the river, at Bald Friars, Md. No positively aboriginal prochlorite quarry had thus far been identified here; and it is a question whether the Indian needed to quarry the material since there is such an abundance of it found along a small stream which enters the Susquehanna at this point. However, some of the numerous pits covering the side of Bald Hill may have been made by the Indian in search of prochlorite containing the larger crystals of magnetite. We know from unfinished and broken vessels found that he quarried steatite here



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although all of the original pits made by him have been enlarged by the white man in search of a better grade of steatite and spar. While scattered specimens of unfinished bannerstones have been found here, the uncultivated condition of the fields is unfavorable to the identification of a workshop.

Prochlorite was worked into bannerstones with much more ease and with less danger of breaking than was slate. The crude blocks of prochlorite were chipped roughly into shape while slate would not lend itself to this speedy process. The softness of the material made scraping easy and eliminated much of the tedious pecking necessary in reducing slate. Other processes in the manufacture were identical with and employed in the same order as was observed at the slate workshop.

Plate V, *a*, shows a roughly chipped block of prochlorite; *b* shows a block of prochlorite pecked into a double convex form; *c* presents one of the few bi-pinnate specimens showing a well-defined centrum; *d* shows a specimen pecked to the desired thickness and truncated on two edges; *e* shows a specimen where the hole is started with a tapering drill so as to locate the centrum before finishing the pecking and scraping; *f* presents a pecked, scraped, and partly polished specimen with a shallow hole in the concave depression on one edge; *g* shows a specimen not so well finished as *f*, but with a hole started with a hollow drill. While finishing with a core drill the hole which had been located with a solid drill was the usual order of procedure, it was not the invariable rule. Occasionally the hole was finished with a tapering drill and sometimes worked from both ends. Few specimens have been observed in which drilling with a hollow drill was operated from both ends. A number of unfinished specimens in which the core is still in place have been drilled nearly through with no indication of an intention to finish the work from the opposite end.

Plate V, *h* and *i*, present halves of finished bannerstones. The small one in *h* shows a large crystal polished flush with the green stone. Plate V, *j* and *l*, show pecking hammers of white quartz of which many have been found about the workshop; *k* shows one of the numerous abrading tools of coarse sandstone.

A comparison of the number of broken and unfinished specimens found at these two bannerstone workshops leads to the conclusion that on the island the slate was worked into convenient forms and many of these carried away to smaller workshops to be finished, and that the numerous unfinished prochlorite specimens have been brought from a larger workshop near the source of the material.

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